



DIRECTOR'S COLUMN

Henry L. Green

Now that a single state code is here, we must consider the training of inspectors and technicians governed by the code. Recently, a meeting was held with the leadership of all inspector organizations in the State. The purpose of the meeting was to familiarize these leaders with the changes in the State Construction Code Act and to start a dialogue about the training required to shift from the current system of codes to a single set of construction regulations.

As the new codes are being developed, it is an opportunity for local inspector organizations and others to begin the learning process on the new International Codes. When the International Plumbing Code was adopted, considerable effort was made to educate inspectors and plumbers on the changes in the codes. With the advent of a single statewide building code, it is imperative to set in place numerous opportunities for inspectors and the building industry to become familiar with the new codes.

While the transition may seem wide sweeping, the fact of the matter is that while the codes have specific technical changes, the overall impact is negligible. Understanding use classifications and construction types will not be different, but understanding the use of the document may take some getting used to. The format is similar to current codes but, conceptually, the code has changed in how to access the materials referenced and used by the code.

For the vast majority this transition will not be difficult, for others, the

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Registration Consolidation Plan

Currently, the majority of code officials are registered in Cycle 1 which renews in 2002. Approximately 400 officials are registered in Cycle 2 which is scheduled for renewal in September 2000. With the promulgation of the International Code as the State Code in 2000, the majority of inspection personnel would be required to convert to a cycle that coincides with the updating of the codes.

The Building Officials and Inspectors Registration Act requires individuals to become registered for periods of not less than 3 years to coincide with the updates of the codes.

In order to accomplish this task, Cycle 1 registrants administering the building, mechanical, and plumbing codes should be reregistered in September 2002 for a 4 year cycle ending September 16, 2006. Cycle 2 registrants would be registered for two 3 year periods, from September 2000 to 2003 and the second, September 2003 to 2006.

Code Officials in Cycle 1 would be required to attend on-going educational programs over the four year period reflecting the requirements for a prorated period. This would mean an increase of approximately 33% in hours for the fourth year of the cycle. For most inspectors this would mean an additional 15 hours of training in the fourth year. Additional hours would be required based on the prorated schedule given the registration classification held by inspectors.

This system would provide equity for all registered inspectors based on the initial registration cycle requirements and subsequent hours required to date. This would provide for the integration of two cycles into one registration period without penalizing a registrant from either cycle.

Electrical Inspectors will remain on a 3 year cycle coinciding with the 1999 edition of the code as it would be updated in 2002 and 2005.

Michigan Elevator Rule 408.8639b

by Calvin W. Rogler

At the Elevator Safety Board meeting held on January 14, 2000, the board requested that architect blueprints of the elevator machine room location accompany shop drawings submitted with the permit application.

Elevator contractors are required to submit a full set of drawings when applying for the installation of a new elevator. As of November 1, 1999, these drawings were required to include the machine room location in accordance with Rule 408.8639b of the Michigan Elevator Laws and Rules.

Because the division is still experiencing problems in this area, the following drawings will also be required. **As of May 1, 2000**, a section of the building's architectural blueprints shall be required to be submitted with the elevator permit application. The scale of the blueprint drawing is to be indicated on the section submitted. The blueprints shall show the elevator hoistway and machine room, including adjacent walls and doors. Adjacent rooms and their uses shall also be identified.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact the Elevator Safety Division at (517) 241-9337.

Director's Column, continued...

transformation may be more challenging. It is time to begin the training process. I encourage all inspectors and members of the construction industry to look for training opportunities and to access those programs that offer the training you seek.

For many inspectors, local chapters may be the best and least costly means of achieving the necessary training. I would also encourage local inspector organizations to open your doors to members of the construction community to participate in your training efforts. This way we all learn together.

Holiday Closings

State offices will be closed in observance of the following holidays:

May 29, 2000 - Memorial Day
July 4, 2000 - Independence Day

BCC Website

Visit our website at: www.cis.state.mi.us/bcc. Any comments or questions may be directed to bccinfo@cis.state.mi.us.

BULLETIN
BUREAU OF
CONSTRUCTION
CODES

MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT
OF CONSUMER &
INDUSTRY SERVICES

The BULLETIN is a quarterly publication of the Bureau of Construction Codes within the Michigan Department of Consumer & Industry Services. The BULLETIN is published for the information of the 46,000 plumbers, electricians, mechanical contractors, boiler and elevator licensees, plan reviewers, building officials, and inspector registrants throughout the state.

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1999 Michigan Electrical Code Clarifies Manufactured Home Service Installations

by Thomas R. Kriegish

Recent adoption of the 1999 Michigan Electrical Code will affect installation of service equipment for manufactured homes, when they are installed on permanent foundations. Changes to Article 550, which covers mobile and manufactured homes, actually began in the 1993 edition of the code, by adding Exception No. 2 to Section 550-23. This exception permitted manufacturers to install service equipment at the factory, but this posed difficulty for field application, due to inconsistent site conditions for utility connections. The 1996 code modified Exception No. 2, but still did not provide distinct clarification between services for mobile homes and manufactured homes, when they are placed on permanent foundations. This resulted in inconsistent enforcement of this section of the code.

Section 550-2 of the 1993 code also introduced the term "manufactured home" under a common heading of "Mobile Home", consistent with Federal HUD standards. Separate definitions were introduced in the 1996 code and remain in the 1999 code, however, it is important to note that the last sentence in each definition states: "For the purposes of this Code and unless otherwise indicated, the term *mobile home* includes manufactured homes." Therefore, we must also apply the requirements for mobile homes to manufactured homes, except where permission for alternate methods is stated.

The 1999 code permits alternate wiring methods for manufactured home services, when the manufactured home is placed on a permanent foundation. The service equipment is now clearly permitted to be installed in or on a manufactured home as prescribed in subsection 550-23(b). However, two different building standards need to be considered. One is the Federal standard (HUD) that applies to the construction of the dwelling and the second is the Michigan Building Code that applies to foundations for permanent dwellings.

Discussion with the Chief Building Inspector of the Bureau notes that the installation of a manufactured home on a foundation for permanent structures would place a basement within the usable area of the manufactured home and would be considered jointly for purposes of occupancy!

In conclusion, compliance with all four conditions of section 550-23(b) would permit service equipment to be installed outside, mounted on the building or inside, nearest the point of entering the basement as permitted in section 230-70(a) of the code. In addition, the requirements for mobile home service equipment, stated in subsections 550-23(c), (d), (f), & (g), and for mobile home feeders stated in section 550-24 **will apply** to manufactured homes installed in accordance with section 550-23(b).

The 2000 State Mechanical Code

by Tennison B. Barry

Once a single state mechanical code is adopted all jurisdictions in the state will be required to enforce the identical code requirements for the installation of mechanical equipment. This single State Code should make it easier for contractors to go from community to community and install equipment essentially in the same manner. We anticipate updating the Michigan Mechanical Code in late December 2000. Although all inspectors will be enforcing the same code, it is realized there may be differences in opinion regarding the meaning of a code section. It will be important that all inspectors participate in seminars on the new code. The more time we spend as a group discussing the code, the more we as inspectors will begin to read it the same. Our office stands ready to assist mechanical inspectors and mechanical contractors in training on the new code.

The mechanical code update committee has been working for two months on the Michigan Mechanical Code (part 9a). We have eliminated any Michigan code provisions that are covered by the International Mechanical Code. Part 9a is smaller than it was in the past. It is our goal that eventually part 9a will only contain administrative requirements referencing other specific state laws. When the state amendments to the mechanical code are completed, they will be printed in the International Code Book. You will be able to purchase a code book which will contain both the International Mechanical Code along with the State amendments printed in their proper place within the code book. The new code book will be entitled "Michigan Mechanical Code."

If you have questions concerning the code please contact the Mechanical Division at (517) 241-9325.

New Boiler Rules Institute a Piping License

by Bryan Jorgensen

The Michigan Boiler Law and Rules have been updated. These newly updated rules became effective on January 3, 2000.

Contained in these rules is a newly created license for piping designated as a "P" license. This license was created for those contractors who commonly do high pressure piping jobs but do not want or need a boiler installer's or repairer's license. The "P" license covers piping beyond the ASME Code boundaries or beyond the appropriate stop valves of high pressure boilers.

Contractors who want this license must apply to the Boiler Division and document 5 years of experience in the field in order to qualify to take the exam. The exam will test an applicant's knowledge of the ASME B31.1 Code and the Michigan Boiler Law and Rules.

For those contractors who now have an Installer's license for high pressure boilers (3B-5B) or a Repairer's license (Class II-IV) the "P" license is not necessary as those licenses already include piping.

In either case, all licensees must submit copies of the qualified welding procedures to the Boiler Division for review and filing prior to doing their first job that includes welding. In addition, any time a welding procedure is updated or changed a copy must be submitted to the Boiler Division.

Questions about this new license may be directed to the Boiler Division at (517) 241-9334.

Receiving Multiple Copies of this Newsletter?

Many of you are probably receiving multiple copies of this Bulletin and wonder why we don't search for duplicates. Thank you to those of you who care enough to bring this to our attention. Unfortunately, the bureau is unable to prevent this from happening. Individuals who appear on different mailing lists within the bureau will continue to receive multiple copies. As an example, an individual who is both a licensee and a registered inspector will receive more than 1 copy. Individuals who are licensed under more than 1 trade such as a mechanical contractor and a master or journey plumber will also receive multiple copies. Unfortunately, without manually reviewing thousands of labels, we are unable to prevent this from occurring. Please feel free to pass your extra copy along to someone who may be interested in bureau activities.

Scheduled Board Meetings

MEETING	DATE	TIME	LOCATION
Board of Boiler Rules	June 13	9:30 a.m.	Okemos-Conf. Room 1
Electrical Administrative Board	June 16	9:30 a.m.	Okemos-Conf. Room 1
State Plumbing Board	June 20	10:00 a.m.	Okemos-Conf. Room 1
Board of Mechanical Rules	June 28	9:00 a.m.	Okemos-Conf. Room 3
Construction Code Commission	July 12	9:30 a.m.	Okemos-Conf. Room 3
Barrier Free Design Board	July 14	9:30 a.m.	Okemos-Conf. Room 1
Elevator Safety Board	July 14	9:30 a.m.	Okemos-Conf. Room 3
State Plumbing Board	July 19	8:15 a.m.	Escanaba Office Bldg.
Electrical Administrative Board	August 18	9:30 a.m.	Okemos-Conf. Room 1

Okemos - 2501 Woodlake Circle, Okemos
Escanaba Office Bldg. - 922 N. Lincoln, Escanaba

License Exam Schedule

EXAM	DATE	LOCATION	DEADLINE
Electrical Exam	June 21/22	Lansing	May 23
Plumbing Exam	June 21	East Lansing	June 2
Elevator Contractor & Certificate-of-Competency Exam	July 14	Okemos	June 26
Elevator Journeyman Exam	July 19	Okemos	June 30
Plumbing Exam	July 20	Escanaba	June 30
Electrical Exam	August 23	Lansing	July 26
Boiler National Board Exam	September 6/7	Okemos	August 7
Boiler Installer/Repairer Exam	September 6/7	Okemos	August 11
Mechanical Contractor Exam	September 12	Lansing	August 15
Plumbing Exam	September 13	East Lansing	August 25

Dates and locations are subject to change.

Registration of a Plumbing License

by Robert G. Konyndyk

Local inspection departments have raised the question of fees and the frequency of registration of journey and master licenses. It is reported local communities are charging a registration fee as high as \$25.00 per year for a master plumber.

Section 4 of the Plumbing Law, PA 266 of 1929, as amended states:

"... The registration of all plumbers licensed under this act shall be made on or before the first day of April each year and shall be made only upon presentation of the state plumbing license for the current year. For the service of such registration a fee of not to exceed 1 dollar may be charged for master plumbers and not to exceed 50 cents for journeymen plumbers. In no case, however, shall any other than the registration fee be required except as herein provided."

Act No. 119, PA 1997, became effective October 10, 1997, amending the Plumbing Law to change master plumbers licenses from an annual license to a triennial licensing period. The journey license remained renewable on an annual basis. The revision to the law did not change licensing registration rates or time frames.

A journey or master plumbing license may be renewed on or before April 1 of each year. A local community may charge an annual registration not exceeding \$1.00 for master plumbers and 50 cents for journey plumbers. The change in the license renewal period for masters shall not affect the frequency of registration with a local community. A community is not required to mandate plumbing license registration.

Accessibility and Existing Buildings

by Irvin J. Poke

The state Barrier Free Design Act, 1966 P.A. 1, incorporates accessibility into the building code and prescribes the enforcement to the local building departments in section 3. Section 2 of the act does not require buildings that existed before July 1975 to be brought into compliance until they undergo alteration or change in use. This is where the 50% rule for compliance is found.

Under the statute, the level of compliance is determined by the percentage of the total square feet of the facility involved in the alteration or change in use. If the area involved is less than 50% of the total area of the facility, the accessibility requirements are applied to the area altered and a route to that area from the nearest entrance. If the area involved is 50% or more, the building is subject to the requirements of accessibility as if it were being constructed new.

An alteration is the physical rearrangement or addition of space and building elements. The repair, removal or replacement of finishes and fixtures are not considered alterations. A building owner may repair finishes or completely remove and replace them and will not be subject to the requirements of accessibility. This also goes for the removal and replacement of kitchen and bath room fixtures, as long as they are not relocated.

The change in use is based on the use group classifications in the state building code. The change of ownership is not a change in use. If a building is a mercantile use and there is a change of ownership, and continues to be a place for the sale of merchandise, it has not changed use. Under these circumstances, the accessibility requirements are not applicable. It does not matter that the type of merchandise changes, such as shoes to electronics. If the same building is transformed to a use that offers professional services it has undergone a change from a mercantile to business use. Under this circumstance the accessibility requirements are applicable, even if no alteration is done. Also, the fact that a building is vacant for a period of time, does not alone constitute a change of use when it is reoccupied.

The accessibility requirements apply to all buildings except private one and two family dwellings, utility and high hazard

structures. However, the state Barrier Free Design statute provides for the granting of exceptions to the accessibility requirements by the state Barrier Free Design Board. When a building owner can demonstrate one or more reasons of compelling need, the board may grant a special license to deviate from or waive the requirements altogether. The statute identifies structural limitations, site limitations, economic limitations, technological limitations, jurisdictional conflicts and historical structures as reasons of compelling need. It is the burden of the applicant to demonstrate compelling need to the board.

Avoid Inspector Reregistration Problems Now

by Scott Fisher

Reregistration for inspectors in Cycle 1 is complete and the expiration of registrations for those inspectors in Cycle 2 is less than a year away. A large number of the issues identified during the reregistration of inspectors in 1999 can be avoided by periodically updating information with our office and reviewing your credit statements.

When you change your address, or change communities where you are performing inspections, please notify our office in writing. Please include your name, registration number and the information you wish to be changed. This will assist us in keeping your records current and enable us to provide you with necessary information without delay.

Credit statements should be thoroughly reviewed when received. If there are discrepancies or questions, you should contact our office immediately. Please do not wait until the last minute to take a class that is needed to meet your educational requirements. Do it now and avoid the rush.

Any questions regarding this article may be directed to the Office of Local Government and Consumer Services at (517) 241-9347.

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